Dear young rheumatologists and researchers in rheumatology,

We are excited to present you a new issue of EMEUNews and to introduce the EMEUNET Committee and Sub-Committee members (previously known as Working Group) for 2022-2023.

This group of enthusiastic young volunteers participates in the organization of EMEUNET and its activities. Currently, it has 57 members from 31 different countries.

The application process is competitive and takes place annually in April-May. Selection is based on the motivation letter, scientific merit, prior contribution to EMEUNET activities (e.g. as a country liaison) as well as balanced gender and geographic representation.

If you would like to join one of the EMEUNET Sub-Committees and be actively involved in our activities, keep an eye on emails from EMEUNET and do not miss our next call for applications! If you have already applied but have not been selected, this does not preclude you from applying again for the following year.

As we welcome our new Committee and Sub-Committee members, we sadly have to say farewell to members leaving, following a period of outstanding initiative and hard work. The EMEUNET family is deeply grateful for their ample efforts over the last years and wishes them all the best onwards. Finally, as usual, in this issue you will also find details about upcoming educational events of interest to EMEUNET members.

We hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and would be very happy to receive any comments or contributions for future issues.

Anastasia Madenidou and Diego Benavent, on behalf of the Newsletter Sub-Committee

More information about EMEUNET can be found at http://emeunet.eular.org

www.facebook.com/EMEUNET
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CONTENTS

EMEUNET WORKING GROUP 2022 - 2023 3
EMEUNET Chairmanship 3
EMEUNET Sub-Committee Leadership Team 4
EMEUNET Sub-Committee members 6
Farewell to EMEUNET Working Group Members leaving 18

UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL EVENTS 20

ONLINE EDUCATION 21

EULAR RESEARCH CONSULTATION SERVICE 25

OUTCOME MEASURES LIBRARY 26

EULAR - EMEUNET SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE 27

EMEUNET PODCASTS 28
EMEUNET CHAIRMANSHIP
2022 - 2023

Kim Lauper, MD – Switzerland, UK

Kim is a consultant rheumatologist and senior clinical associate at the Geneva University Hospitals in Switzerland, and a clinical research fellow at the Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis at the University of Manchester in the UK. Her research focuses on rheumatoid arthritis, (pharmaco)-epidemiology, real-life evidence, vaccination and methodology of observational studies. She has contributed to the Rheumatoid Arthritis: Treatment chapter of the 16th and 17th EULAR Online Course on Rheumatic Diseases. She is a member of the Rheumatoid Arthritis scientific committee of the Swiss register of rheumatologic diseases (Swiss Clinical Quality Management in Rheumatic Diseases, SCQM). She is the Chair of the EMEUNET Committee.

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Tue Wenzel Kragstrup, MD, PhD – Denmark

Tue is currently working as a part time Associate Professor in immunology and pharmacology and a part time rheumatology fellow in Aarhus, Denmark. The Kragstrup lab focuses on the immunological mechanisms of immune mediated inflammatory diseases with special interest in arthritis and immune mediated adverse effects of cancer immunotherapy. Tue graduated from the medical school at Aarhus University in 2010 also spending time at Sydney University Hospital. He did his internship in Copenhagen and PhD at the Department of Biomedicine at Aarhus University and Department of Immunology at Stanford University. Tue is the EULAR EMEUNET Committee Chair-Elect and was previously Danish Country Liaison, Working Group member and Education Sub-Committee leader.

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EMEUNET SUB-COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP TEAM

2022 - 2023

Diego Benavent, MD – Spain

Diego is a consultant rheumatologist at Hospital Universitario La Paz in Madrid, where he is currently doing his PhD on axial spondyloarthritis. He also collaborates as Medical Expert in Savana, a company working on artificial intelligence in medicine. Aside from his activities regarding healthcare technology, his major interests are spondyloarthritis, patient-reported-outcomes and musculoskeletal epidemiology. Diego is the chair of the Newsletter Sub-Committee.

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Mrinalini Dey MB BChir, MA (Hons.) Cantab., MRCP- UK

Mrinalini Dey is an academic rheumatology registrar working in Liverpool (UK). She developed her interest in academic rheumatology as a student at Cambridge. Her research interests include epidemiology, comorbidities and infection in rheumatic diseases. Her previous work has focused on vasculitis, lupus, and osteoporosis. Over the last few years, she has led a project on the development of a point-of-care test for infection in acute hot joints, funded by British Society for Rheumatology, Wellcome Trust, and University of Liverpool. Her current interests and work focus on comorbidities and disease/health outcomes in patients with inflammatory arthritis. Mrinalini is on the Editorial Board and Digital & Social Media Committee for Rheumatology journal. She sits on the EULAR Advocacy Communications sub-committee. She has previously reported for RheumNow at ACR congresses and has been News Editor for EULAR TV at recent EULAR congresses. She currently co-leads the Social Media sub-committee in EMEUNET.

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Lianne Kearsley-Fleet, PhD – UK

Lianne is an epidemiologist (postdoctoral researcher) at the Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, University of Manchester, UK. Her research focus is safety and effectiveness of biologic therapies for use in children and adults with juvenile idiopathic arthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. She is particularly interested in young adults with rheumatic diseases and their long-term outcomes. Lianne is the Co-Leader of the Social Media Sub-Committee.

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Daniele Mauro, MD, PhD – Italy, United Kingdom

Daniele is a medical doctor who completed his PhD in Experimental Medicine and Rheumatology at Centre for Experimental Medicine and Rheumatology at the Queen Mary University of London (UK). He focused his study on the involvement of ubiquitination pathways on the immune system, and their impact on autoimmune rheumatic diseases, mainly systemic lupus erythematosus, Sjögren’s syndrome and rheumatoid arthritis. Since 2018 he is a trainee in Rheumatology in Italy where he is expanding his interests to the mucosal immunology and Innate Lymphoid Cells in spondyloarthritis, working between the Universities of Palermo and Naples in Italy, and the Queen Mary University of London. Daniele is the chair of the Visibility & Global Affairs Sub-Committees.

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EMEUNET SUB-COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP TEAM

2022 - 2023

Xabier Michelena Vegas, MD, MSc – Spain

Xabier Michelena is a Rheumatology consultant and investigator at Vall d’Hebron University Hospital, Barcelona, Spain. He also maintains a visiting research fellow position at the Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine (LIRMM), University of Leeds, United Kingdom. His major research interest is in spondyloarthritis (including axial spondyloarthritis and psoriatic arthritis) and more recently in the field of artificial intelligence and digital health. He is currently pursuing his PhD between the University of Leeds and Barcelona on the axial phenotype across the spondyloarthritides. Xabier is member of the scientific committee of GRESSER (Spanish Society Spondyloarthritis research group) and the chair of the Country Liaison Subcommittee.

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Luis Fernando Perez, MD, MSc- Mexico, the Netherlands

Luis Fernando is a rheumatologist and a PhD candidate at the Erasmus University Medical Center in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. His major interests is Reproductive Rheumatology, with a specific interest on the male perspective. He is participating in the development of national and international guidelines on the use of immunosuppressive treatment in female and male patients diagnosed with rheumatic diseases before conception, during pregnancy and during lactation. Luis Fernando is chair of the Education committee.

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Silvia Piantoni, MD, PhD – Italy

Silvia Piantoni is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow and Consultant in Rheumatology at the ASST Spedali Civili Hospital, University Department of Clinical and Experimental Sciences, in Brescia (Italy). During her PhD Course in Immunology, she moved to Geneva at the Centre Medecale Univeritare (CMU) for a lab-based research project. Her translational research focuses on the involvement of T lymphocytes in autoimmune diseases. She is a member of the Italian Rheumatology Society since 2015. Silvia is the Chair of the Peer Mentoring Subcommittee.

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Manouk de Hooge, MSc, PhD – The Netherlands, Belgium

Manouk is a postdoc researcher at the Ghent University hospital (UZ Gent) in Belgium. Her focus is on spondyloarthritis and psoriatic arthritis. In addition, she is working in the field of Rheumatology through her own company -MdH Research- and is focussed on imaging. She did her PhD at the Leiden University Medical Center in the Netherlands on imaging in axial spondyloarthritis under supervision of prof.dr. D van der Heijde and she is still involved in some spondyloarthritis projects there. She is the treasurer of the EMERging EULAR NETwork (EMEUNET) and co-chair of Young Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society (ASAS).

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THE EMEUNET SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2022 - 2023

Morten Aagaard Nielsen, MD, PhD

Morten is a rheumatology resident at Aarhus University Hospital. His major both clinical and scientific interests are RA, SpA, and biology-guided precision medicine. He has been the EMEUNET country liaison for Denmark since 2020. He is a current review editor and involved in national societies of both immunology and rheumatology. Morten is a member of the Visibility and Global Affairs Sub-Committee.

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Krystel Aouad, MD – France, Lebanon

Krystel is a consultant rheumatologist, working part-time in Lebanon and completing her MPH degree in Research and Biostatistics in Paris-Saclay university, France. She pursued her training in Pitié-Salpêtrière University Hospital in Paris. She received a diploma in musculoskeletal ultrasound from Sorbonne University, Paris. She has a high interest in clinical research in the field of spondyloarthritis (SpA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and rheumatoid arthritis. She received the 1st prize from EMEUNET at the ACR congress 2020 for her research work on PsA. She is currently leading a research project on axial SpA analyzing the data of the DESIR cohort. Krystel is a member of the Visibility and Global Affairs Sub-Committee.

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Gizem Ayan, MD – Turkey

Gizem is a second-year rheumatology fellow at Hacettepe University Medical Faculty in Ankara where she started the residency right after the 1.5-year inflammatory arthritis research fellowship at Ottawa University, Canada. She is currently working as the education committee leader of Young-GRAPPA. Her major research interests are inflammatory arthritis particularly psoriatic arthritis and outcome measures in rheumatic diseases. Gizem is a member of the Education Subcommittee.

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Aggelos Banos, MD, PhD – Greece

Aggelos is a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Laboratory of Autoimmunity and Inflammation (BRFRAA, Athens, Greece) and a Resident of Internal Medicine (Ippokrateion University Hospital, Athens, Greece). His major research interests include molecular clustering of autoimmune diseases through -omics technologies, with special focus in SLE and vasculitis. His past research studies involved nuclear architecture and chromatin rearrangements in antiviral response and transcriptomic analysis of various primary cells in SLE context. His current work is focusing on analysis of hematopoietic stem cells and bone marrow niche dynamics in SLE patients and mouse models. Aggelos is a member of Country Liaisons Sub-Committee.

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THE EMEUNET SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2022 - 2023

Sytske Anne Bergstra- the Netherlands

Sytske is a post-doctoral researcher at Leiden University Medical Center. Her main Research interests are rheumatoid arthritis, observational studies and methodology. She likes running, fitness, horse riding, gardening, being with my family. She is a member of the Social Media Sub-Committee.

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Simone Battista PT, OMPT, MSc – Italy and Sweden

Simone Battista is a joint PhD student in ‘Neurosciences’ at the Department of Neurosciences, Rehabilitation, Ophthalmology, Genetics, Child and Maternal Health, University of Genova (Genova, Italy) and ‘Medical Science’ at the Department of Clinical Sciences, Lund University (Lund, Sweden). He is a specialised physiotherapist in the rehabilitation of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases. His research revolves around hip and knee osteoarthritis and the socioeconomic, cultural and psychological factors on osteoarthritis rehabilitation. Simone Battista is a member of the Peer-Mentoring Subcommittee.

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Emre Bilgin, MD – Turkey

Emre is an internist and rheumatology fellow-in-training at Hacettepe University Hospitals in Ankara, Turkey where he is planning to have a master class in Clinical Epidemiology. His major research interests are biologic drug registries, data science and epidemiology in musculoskeletal disorders and rheumatoid arthritis. He is currently participating in 3 journals as an editor (Medicine, Journal of Turkish Society for Rheumatology, Acta Medica) and 3 journals as an editorial board member (Rheumatology, BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders and BMC Rheumatology). Emre is a member of the Social Media Sub-Committee.

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Philipp Bosch, MD – Austria

Philipp is a rheumatology research fellow and PhD candidate at the Department of Rheumatology and Immunology at the Medical University of Graz. His major research interest is ultrasound in rheumatic diseases, as well as outcome measure research and epidemiology. His previous work involved the connection between disease activity and ultrasound in psoriatic arthritis. Currently, he is working on evaluation of ultrasonographic changes in giant cell arteritis patients undergoing glucocorticoid treatment and the predictive value of ultrasound for radiographic progression in psoriatic arthritis. He is also involved in EULAR and OMERACT projects and is currently the head of the Visibility Group of the Austrian Society of Rheumatology. Philipp is a member of the Education Sub-Committee.

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THE EMEUNET SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2022 - 2023

Giacomo Cafaro, MD – Italy

Giacomo is a consultant rheumatologist and PhD candidate at the Rheumatology Unit of the University of Perugia, Italy. He is currently carrying out his PhD project on T cell biology in rheumatoid arthritis and is involved in other research projects on musculoskeletal ultrasound, psoriatic arthritis and Sjögren’s syndrome, that represent his main research interests. He was PARTNER fellow at the Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, University of Glasgow. He is also involved in undergraduate and rheumatology interns training. Giacomo is a member of the newsletter sub-committee.

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Ertugrul Cagri Bolek, MD – Turkey

Ertugrul received his M.D. and Internal Medicine specialist degrees from Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey. He is currently clinical fellow-in-training in Division of Rheumatology at same university. Also, he is simultaneously in education program of Immunology MSc. His past work was about clinical features and disease course of Neuro-Behcet's Disease. He is planning to focus on translational research about immunorheumatology and mechanisms of rheumatism (especially about vasculitis and rare diseases). He is active member of ORPHANET-Tr in Health Institutes of Turkey. Ertugrul is a member of the Peer Mentoring Sub-Committee.

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Irene Cecchi, MD, Assistant Professor, PhD student- Italy

Irene Cecchi is a PhD candidate and assistant professor at the Department of Clinical and Biological Sciences, San Giovanni Bosco Hospital, Turin (Italy). Her research fields, as well as her clinical routine practice, includes mainly connective tissue diseases, antiphospholipid syndrome, and reproductive immunology. Her doctoral research project is focused on developing a predictive model for the early detection of adverse pregnancy complications in connective tissue disease patients. Irene is a young scholar of the AntiPhospholipid Syndrome Alliance for Clinical Trials and International Networking (’APS ACTION’) and a member of the Country Liaisons EMEUNET Sub-Committee.

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Francesca Crisafulli, MD- Italy

Francesca is a rheumatologist at the Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Unit of the ASST Spedali Civili of Brescia, Italy. She is attending a PhD program at the University of Brescia. Her major interests are reproductive issues in patients with rheumatic diseases, connective tissue diseases (in particular Systemic Lupus Erythematosus), and autoinflammatory diseases. Since 2018 she is a member of the young rheumatologists committee of the Italian Society for Rheumatology (SIRyoung) and she is the past EMEUNET Country Liaison for Italy and San Marino (2019-2022). Currently, Francesca is a member of the Visibility and Global Affairs Sub-Committee.

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THE EMEUNET SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2022 - 2023

Stefan Dinescu, MD - Romania
Rheumatology specialist at the Emergency County Hospital in Craiova and lecturer in Rheumatology at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Craiova. Stefan completed his PhD studies in 2018, with a research focused on the role of ultrasonography in Sjogren's syndrome. He has been involved as sub-investigator in a multicentre clinical trial on systemic lupus erythematosus. He has completed a certified musculoskeletal ultrasound course. Research interests include axial spondyloarthritis and musculoskeletal ultrasonography. Stefan is a member of the Social Media Subcommittee.

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Serena Fasano - Italy
Serena is a Consultant/Research Fellow in Rheumatology at the University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Naples, Italy. Her main research interests are Systemic Lupus, Observational studies and Methodology. Her main clinical interests are Systemic Lupus, Vasculitis, Myositis, and Systemic sclerosis. She likes to travel, eat Asian food, read books, sing, and dance. She is a member of the Social Media Sub-Committee.
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Renaud Felten, MD, PhD student – France
Renaud Felten is a rheumatologist and assistant professor in clinical pharmacology. He works both at the multidisciplinary Clinical Investigation Centre and Rheumatology Department of the University Hospitals of Strasbourg and at the National Reference Centre for Rare Systemic and Autoimmune Diseases East South-West (RESO) in Strasbourg, France. His main research interests are DMARDs, immunosuppressive drugs in autoimmune diseases and inflammatory rheumatism, and spondyloarthritis. He is about to defend his doctoral thesis, which focuses on the search for new therapeutic targets in Sjogren's syndrome. Renaud is a member of the Newsletter Sub-Committee for his second year, after one year in the Social Media Sub-Committee.
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Dalifer Freites Núñez, MD, MSc – Spain
Dalifer is a consultant rheumatologist at Hospital Universitario Clínico San Carlos in Madrid, and PhD candidate at Complutense University. She also collaborates as a rheumatologist in Hospital Nuestra Señora del Rosario in Madrid. She has participated in various research projects, some of them with a European scope. Projects related to the optimization of biological agents and predictive model of therapy response in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. She has participated as a sub-investigator in diverse clinical trials and shares a special interest on rheumatic and musculoskeletal disease epidemiology, rheumatoid arthritis and Spondyloarthritis. Dalifer is a member of the EMEUNET Social Media Subcommittee.
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THE EMEUNET SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2022 - 2023

Tsvetoslav Georgiev, MD - Bulgaria

Tsvetoslav works as a rheumatologist and assistant professor at the University Hospital "St. Marina" - Varna and Medical University – Varna, respectively. He graduated in medicine in 2012 and defended his PhD thesis on osteoarthritis in 2018 at the Medical University - Sofia. His area of interests are osteoarthritis, imaging of musculoskeletal disorders, and COVID-19 in the context of rheumatic diseases. Tsvetoslav is practicing musculoskeletal ultrasound and holds an intermediate-level certificate (EULAR). Since 2019, he has been an associate editor of Rheumatology International. Since 2017, he has been a frequent reviewer for influential journals in the field of rheumatology and medicine. He participates in many Bulgarian and international courses in musculoskeletal ultrasound and imaging. He has conducted seminars and lectures on writing and reviewing scientific literature. Tsvetoslav is a member of the Education Sub-Committee.

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Alessandro Giollo, MD PhD(c) – Italy

Alessandro is a rheumatologist and a PhD candidate in clinical and experimental biomedical sciences at the University of Verona (Italy). He is interested in the cardiovascular involvement of immune-mediated and inflammatory diseases, and his research mainly focuses on rheumatoid arthritis, systemic vasculitis and scleroderma. He spent 9-months in the UK at the Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine (LIRMM) as a clinical research fellow training on cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging in ANCA-associated vasculitis under the supervision of Prof. Maya Buch. He is a member of EUVAS and EUSTAR YIG. Alessandro is a member of the Country Liaisons Sub-Committee.
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Tania Gudu, MD– UK

Tania is a Rheumatology Consultant at Ipswich Hospital, UK where she leads the Spondyloarthritis service. She is also an Honorary Consultant at Cambridge University Hospital, UK. Her main research interests are spondyloarthritis/ psoriatic arthritis, patient reported outcomes and MSK ultrasound. She has completed a PhD on Impact of Psoriatic arthritis (Romania/ France). She was awarded a PARTNER fellowship and a EULAR training bursary both focused on psoriatic arthritis. She is a member of GRAPPA, BritPACT and an active member of the Young GRAPPA Research and Clinical Governance Working Groups. Within EMEUNET, Tania is a member of the Country Liaison Subcommittee. taniagudu@gmail.com

Latika Gupta, MD- UK

Dr Gupta is a rheumatologist and clinical immunologist working at the Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust and University of Manchester, UK. She is a researcher (200+ publications), educator and editor with an interest in myositis, equity, and digital health. She currently serves as the APLAR Young Rheumatology Webmaster and is an EMEUNET social media subcommittee member. Dr Gupta is a publon's top reviewer and on the editorial board and social media team of several journals.

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THE EMEUNET SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2022 - 2023

Halbert Hernández Negrín, MD, MSc-Spain

Halbert is an internist and predoctoral researcher at the University of Malaga. His research interests focus on epidemiological and translational research in systemic autoimmune diseases, specifically lupus. He is currently collaborating in the European project 3TR - Taxonomy, Treatment, Targets and Remission-SLE Study and in the International Multicenter Registry of patients with monogenic and polygenic autoinflammatory diseases (AIDA Project). He is a member of the European Lupus Society and an American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Pre-Doc Fellow. Halbert is a part of EMEUNET’s Social Media subcommittee.

Pierre-Antoine Juge, MD, PhD – France

Pierre-Antoine is a clinical research fellow at the Rheumatology department, Bichat hospital, APHP, Université de Paris Cité. His major interests are the pulmonary manifestations of connective tissue diseases and particularly, rheumatoid arthritis associated interstitial lung disease. He also participates in innovative educational programs in his university such as the ECOS (Examen Clinique Objectif et Structuré) which is a situational exercise that assesses the skills and knowledge of medical students. Pierre-Antoine is a member of the Education Sub-Committee.

Féline Kroon, MD, PhD – The Netherlands

Féline is a rheumatologist-in-training at Zuyderland Medical Center in Heerlen (The Netherlands). She did her PhD on treatment and outcome measurement in hand osteoarthritis at the Leiden University Medical Center in Leiden. She has participated in several task forces for EULAR management recommendations, and is a member of the OMERACT Technical Advisory Group. Féline is a member of the Visibility & Global Affairs Sub-Committee and the Country Liaison for The Netherlands.

Gözde Kübra Yardimci, MD – Turkey

Gozde had a rheumatology training at the Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey. She started her Vasculitis Clinical Research Consortium (VCRC)- Vasculitis Foundation (VF) Fellowship on July, 2022 and is currently working as a clinical research fellow at the Mount Sinai Hospital, University of Toronto, Canada. Her major interests are vasculitis, Pregnancy & Rheumatic diseases. Gozde is also a member of the Hacettepe Society of Rheumatology (HSR), Turkish Society of Rheumatology (TSR) and the Vasculitis Clinical Research Consortium (VCRC). Gozde is a member of the Newsletter Sub-Committee.
THE EMEUNET SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2022 - 2023

Jean-Guillaume Letarouilly, MD- France

Jean-Guillaume is a fellow in the department of rheumatology at Lille University Hospital. He is also a PhD student at Lille University. His major interests are inflammatory rheumatic disorders, especially spondyloarthritis and psoriatic arthritis and the transverse approaches between rheumatology, gastroenterology and dermatology. He is the Country Liaison for France and has contributed to the first EMEUNET-Country Liaison Clinical Topics webinar series. He is a member of the Social Media Sub-Committee.

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Enrico De Lorenzis, MD- Italy New

Enrico graduated in Medicine and Surgery in 2014 and specialized in Rheumatology in 2019 at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome. He is now a PhD candidate in Biomolecular Medicine at the University of Verona. He is currently working as visiting clinical research fellow at the Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal disease in Leeds (UK). His research activity has been focused on scleroderma and cardio-pulmonary involvement related to connective tissue disease with specific interest in pathophysiology and prognosis prediction. He is a member of the EUSTAR young investigator group and of EUMENET since 2020 and joined the Country Liaison sub-committee in 2022.

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Anastasia Madenidou, MD, MSc, MRCP, MAcadMEd- UK

Anastasia is a clinical research fellow at the University of Manchester. She is also a rheumatology trainee at the Kellgren Centre of Rheumatology, Manchester Royal Infirmary. Her major interests are lupus, systemic sclerosis, and precision medicine. She has contributed to the material for the 1st EULAR Online Course on Capillaroscopy & Microcirculation. Anastasia is a trainee representative for the British Society of Rheumatology (BSR) and the Rheumatology Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) of the Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board (JRCPTB). Anastasia is a member of the Newsletter Sub-Committee.

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Cathy Melong- Switzerland, Cameroon New

Cathy Melong is an internist and rheumatologist in final training from Cameroon, currently working in Switzerland. Her main Research interests are systemic lupus erythematosus and gout, patient-oriented clinical epidemiology (risk factors for mortality, effectiveness of treatments). Cathy is a member of the Newsletter Sub-committee.

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Elise van Mulligen, MSc, PhD – The Netherlands

Elise is a postdoc researcher and epidemiologist at the department of Rheumatology at the LUMC, Leiden, and the Erasmus MC, Rotterdam. Her PhD project was about tapering treatment in Rheumatoid Arthritis. Her current research focus is on the (very) early detection of Rheumatoid Arthritis, with a special interest in economic analyses and patient-reported outcomes. Currently, Elise is a member of the Education Subcommittee.

Aleksandra Opinc-Rosiak, MD- Poland

Aleksandra is a trainee in rheumatology at the Department of Rheumatology with Internal Diseases Subdivision of the USK-WAM Hospital in Lodz, Poland. She is also a research and teaching assistant at the Department of Rheumatology and a PhD candidate at the Medical University of Lodz. Her major interests are idiopathic inflammatory myopathies, in particular antisynthetase syndrome, and autoantibodies. Aleksandra is EMEUNET Country Liaison for Poland since 2021. She is a member of Polish Rheumatology Society (PTR), treasurer of the Lodz branch of PTR, member of the Section of Young Rheumatologists of PTR and a member of European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI). Aleksandra is a member of the Newsletter Sub-Committee.

Mert Oztas, MD – Turkey

Mert is a fellow in training at Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa. His main interests are autoinflammatory disorders and large vessel vasculitis. Mert is a member of the Peer Mentoring Sub-Committee.

Daliya Pencheva, MD- Bulgaria

Daliya is a PhD fellow at the Department of Internal Medicine, Medical University of Sofia, Bulgaria and a rheumatology resident at the Clinic of Rheumatology, University Hospital “St. Ivan Rilski”. Daliya is also an assistant professor of pathophysiology at the Department of Physiology and Pathophysiology, Medical University of Sofia. Her major interests include systemic lupus erythematosus, quality of life, patient-reported outcome measures, treat to target therapy. In 2021 Daliya received a SLEuro training bursary programme grant and spent a 2-months training visit at the SLE centre Policlinic of Rheumatology & Hiller Research Unit, Heinrich Heine-University Düsseldorf, Germany. Daliya is a member of the Newsletter Sub-Committee.
THE EMEUNET SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2022 - 2023

Antigone Pieta, MD, MSc – Greece 🇬🇷

Antigone is a Rheumatology trainee in the Rheumatology Clinic of University Hospital of Ioannina, Greece. Her research interest focuses on Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, response to treatment and disease activity metrics in systemic autoimmune diseases. Her work so far included organization of a research biobank and conduction of randomized clinical trials in rheumatic diseases. She is also a member of Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens, taking part in research projects regarding lupus. She is a member of the Peer Mentoring Sub-committee.

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Edoardo Prediletto, MSc, PhD – Italy, UK 🇮🇹 🇬🇧

Edoardo is a postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for Experimental Medicine and Rheumatology of the William Harvey Research Institute in London. His major research interests include rheumatoid arthritis, basic science in autoimmunity and virology. His past work involved understanding the role of Synoviocytes and B-Cells in the production of autoantibodies. Also, during his PhD he investigated several aspects of the Epstein Barr Virus in rheumatoid arthritis. Currently his work is focusing on the differences between subsets of Fibroblast-Like Synoviocytes inside the synovium, and their possible role fuelling inflammation in RA. Edoardo has been a PhD Versus Arthritis fellow and is a BSI and yEFIS member. Edoardo is a member of the Social Network Sub-Committee.

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Fabian Proft, MD – Germany 🇩🇪

Fabian is a rheumatologist and senior researcher at the Med. Department of Gastroenterology, Infectiology and Rheumatology CBF, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany, where he is heading the clinical trials unit. His major research interests are axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA) with a focus on emerging treatments, observational cohort studies and imaging. Currently, he is working on similarities and differences between axial SpA and axial PsA. He also explores factors and potential treatments influencing the radiographic progression in axial SpA. Fabian is a full member of ASAS and GRAPPA and is a member of the Newsletter Sub-Committee.

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THE EMEUNET SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2022 - 2023

Juan C. Sarmiento-Monroy, MD, MSc - Spain

Juan C. is a rheumatologist and clinical research fellow at the Hospital Clinic of Barcelona (Catalunya, Spain). He is an Epidemiologist (Universidad del Rosario, Colombia) and has a Master’s in Autoimmune Diseases (University of Barcelona). His main research interests include the discovery of biomarkers in Rheumatoid Arthritis-Interstitial Lung Disease, the utility of Ultrasonography in Rheumatic and Autoimmune Diseases, and the developing of digital tools for patients with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. He currently participates in the National Spanish registry BIOBADASER. In addition, he has experience in real-world studies about biologics/biosimilars and JAK inhibitors in rheumatoid arthritis. Juan C. is a member of the EMEUNET Newsletter Sub-Committee.

Cristiana Sieiro Santos, MD, MSc – Spain

Cristiana is a rheumatology trainee at Complejo Asistencial Universitario de León and a PhD student at the University of León. Her major interests are lupus, systemic sclerosis, and clinical immunology. She has a master’s degree in pediatric rheumatology from University Cardenal Herrera and an expert title in autoinflammatory diseases from University of Barcelona. Cristiana is a trainee representative for the Spanish Society of Rheumatology (SER) and the Portuguese Society of Rheumatology (SPR). Cristiana is a member of the Country Liaison Sub-Committee.

Muhammad Shipa, MD – UK

Muhammad is a senior rheumatology trainee at London deanery and currently pursuing his PhD in B cell depletion therapy in Lupus nephritis at university college London. His major interest includes connective tissue diseases like Lupus and has been working as a key collaborator in clinical trial in Lupus. For his research contribution he won prestigious Gordon Davies silver award in 2017. Muhammad is a member of the visibility and global affairs Sub-Committee.

Stephanie Shoop-Worrall, PhD – UK

Stephanie is a research associate at the University of Manchester, UK. Her major research interests include epidemiology, machine learning and paediatric rheumatology. Her past work explored the state of remission in juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA): how it is defined, predicted and outcomes following its achievement. She has also worked on the validation and translation of patient-reported outcome measures as young people with JIA mature into adulthood. Currently, Stephanie is working with the CLUSTER consortium applying novel machine learning methods to further stratified medicine in JIA. She is a member of PReS and of the Peer Mentoring Sub-Committee.
Jeroen Smeele, MD – The Netherlands

Jeroen is a medical doctor/researcher at the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam and currently working on a PhD thesis on Rheumatoid Arthritis. His major interests are rheumatic diseases before and during pregnancy and epidemiology. He has been a scientific translator since 2018. Jeroen is a member of the Peer Mentoring Sub-Committee.

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Maria Sokolova, MD – Germany, Russia

Maria is a trainee in rheumatology and internal diseases at the University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel, Germany, and a PhD candidate in rheumatology and immunology at the University Clinic Erlangen. Her main research interest is translation science in the field of rheumatoid arthritis, including autoantibodies, biomarkers and B cells; with a special interest in the transition from at-risk phase to disease. Maria has also previously worked on translational projects in psoriatic arthritis and did clinical research in Takayasu arteritis. Maria is a member of the German society of young rheumatologists (AG Junge Rheumatologie) and a member of the EMEUNET Education Sub-Committee.

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Lise Verhoef, PhD – The Netherlands

Lise Verhoef is a senior researcher at the Sint Maartenskliniek in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Her main research areas of interest are rheumatoid arthritis, (pharmaceutical) treatment strategies, digital innovation and patient-centered care. In 2019 she completed her thesis entitled ‘Effective and efficient use of bDMARDs in rheumatoid arthritis’. Currently, she supervises several PhD students as co-promotor and is theme leader ‘eHealth and person-centred care’ at the Sint Maartenskliniek. Lise is a member of the EMEUNET Peer Mentoring Sub-Committee.

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Vincenzo Venerito, MD– Italy

Vincenzo is assistant professor of Rheumatology at the University of Bari (IT). His main research interest is the investigation of diagnostic and therapeutic biomarkers in inflammatory through synovial biopsy. Additionally, he is involved in the application of machine learning methods in rheumatic diseases. Vincenzo also has a vivid interest in biostatistics and epidemiology. He is a member of the Education Sub-Committee.

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THE EMEUNET SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2022 - 2023

Arani Vivekanantham, MPhil MRCP PGCert FHEA MBChB – UK, Sri Lanka

Arani Vivekanantham is an NIHR Doctoral Fellow at the University of Oxford undertaking a D.Phil. She is also a Rheumatology Registrar at Oxford University Hospitals. Her research interest is in using routinely collected healthcare data to answer clinically relevant questions to improve the care and lives for people living with psoriatic arthritis. Her current research work aims to understand which people with psoriasis develop psoriatic arthritis with the aim to develop a prediction model to support early diagnosis and treatment of people with psoriatic arthritis. Arani leads the networking sub-group of the Young-Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis and is the UK Research in Musculoskeletal Epidemiology representative for Oxford. Arani is a member of the Education sub-committee.

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Zoran Veličković, MD, Serbia

Zoran is an Internal Medicine resident, Clinical trial associate and PhD candidate at Institute of Rheumatology, University of Belgrade. His major research interests are fibromyalgia and pain disorders in general, gait and balance alterations, and accelerometry. Zoran is a member of Rheumatology Association of Serbia and member of presidentship of Serbian Society for Musculoskeletal Diseases. Zoran is a member of the Country Liason Sub-Committee.

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Sizheng Steven Zhao, MD, PhD – UK

Steven is an Academic Clinical Lecturer at the Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, University of Manchester. He obtained his PhD from the University of Liverpool, with a research background in applying epidemiological methods to registry and routine healthcare data. Recognising the limitations of many observational designs, he complements these approaches with Mendelian randomisation; that is, using genetic variants to reduce traditional sources of bias such as confounding. Steven has over 80 publications and is an associate editor of the journals Rheumatology (Oxford) and Clinical Therapeutics. He is also an executive board member of the British Society for Spondyloarthritis (BritSpA), medical advisory board member for the charity NASS (National Axial Spondyloarthritis Society), and associate member of the Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society (ASAS). Steven is a member of the EMEUNET Newsletter Sub-Committee.

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THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

FAREWELL TO

EMEUNET WORKING GROUP MEMBERS 2021-2022

Alvise Berti  Alla Ischenko  Tadeja Kuret

Mariana Luis  Juan Molina  Massimo Radin

Nadia Roodenrijs  David Simon  Olena Zimba
THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

FAREWELL TO

EMEUNET WORKING GROUP MEMBERS 2021-2022

Simone Parisi
Social Media SC Chair

Mikhail Protopopov
Newsletter SC Chair

Sebastián Rodríguez García
Country Liaison SC Chair

Felice Rivellese
EMEUNET Chair 2020-2021
UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2022

German Congress of Rheumatology (DGRh) 2022
• When and Where: Aug 31- Sep 03, 2022, Berlin, Germany
• Website: https://www.dgrh-kongress.de/

The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research Annual Meeting 2022
• When and Where: 09-12 Sep 2022, Austin Texas, USA
• Website: https://www.asbmr.org/annual-meeting

British Society of Spondyloarthritis annual meeting
• When and Where: 14-15 Sep 2022, Birmingham, UK, Hybrid Event
• Website: https://britspa.co.uk/event/2022-britspa-annual-scientific-meeting/

28h European Paediatric Rheumatology Congress
• When and Where: 20-23 Sep 2022, Prague, Czech Republic
• Website: https://www.pres.eu/pres2022/index.html

10th Annual Meeting of the International Cytokine & Interferon Society
• When and Where: 20-23 Sep 2022, Hawaii, USA
• Website: https://hawaii.cytokesociety.org/

OCTOBER 2022

17th Mediterranean Rheumatology Symposium & Basic Ultrasound Course
• When and Where: 02-04 Oct 2022, Antalya, Turkey
• Website: https://antalyaultrasound.com/registration-accommodation/

European Lupus Meeting
• When and Where: 5-8 Oct 2022, Stockholm, Sweden
• Website: https://sleuromeeting.com/

20th Biennial Meeting of the European Society of Immunodeficiencies
• When and Where: 12-15 Oct 2022, Gothenburg, Sweden
• Website: https://esidmeeting.org/

4th EUVAS Vasculitis Course
• When and Where: 13-15 Oct 2022, Florence, Italy
• Website: https://events.lenagroup.eu/eve-lab/2022/euvas/
Compilation of EULAR Online Modules
EULAR has developed e-learning opportunities with the newest updates in the field of rheumatology. 99 modules are available, covering different areas of rheumatology

- **Fee**: 25 EUR for each module
- **Start**: no deadline / any time
- **Available for**: 1 year after booking

11th EULAR Online Introductory Ultrasound Course
The course, covering 7 modules, is designed for approx. 7 months of training, the expected learning time per week is around 2 1/2 hours. Upon passing the examination, a EULAR certificate will be issued.

- **Fee**: 150 EUR
- **Start**: 17.10.2022
- **Available for**: 1 year + 1 year extension

12th EULAR Online Course on Systemic Sclerosis
The Course consists of 10 modules dealing with physiopathology, clinical aspects and management of SS. All modules are developed by EUSTAR

- **Fee**: 150 EUR
- **Start**: 17.10.2022
- **Available for**: 1 year + 1 year extension

17th EULAR Online Course on Rheumatic Diseases
The course is managed by a scientific course committee controlling the structure and content of the course and performing regular quality control and advancement. The full version covers the entire field of rheumatology and consists of 55 illustrated modules (of which some are optional), each one covering a specific topic. The expected learning time per week is calculated around 2 1/2 hours but very flexible for the learners who can enter the learning system at any time and have available free of charge an extra year if needed.

Knowledge and skills are targeted to suit a level of knowledge appropriate for the final years of training as a rheumatologist.

- **Fee**: 150 EUR
- **Start**: 17.10.2022
- **Available for**: 2 years + 1 year extension
EULAR ONLINE COURSES AND MODULES

14th EULAR Online Course on Connective Tissue Diseases
The Course consists of 16 modules which deal with immunology and systemic auto-immune diseases, such as SLE, scleroderma, and vasculitis.
➢ **Fee:** 150 EUR
➢ **Start:** 17.10.2022
➢ **Available for:** 1 year + 1 year extension

2nd EULAR Online Course on Patient Education for Physicians and Health Professionals
The Course consists of 4 modules (approx. 6 hours each). The learning objectives are: understand the problematics of chronic rheumatic diseases, understand issues of patient education, develop attitudes in the relationship with the patient, elaborate a program of patient education, perform an educational diagnosis, design and animate educational workshops evaluate a program and among different learning objectives. Upon passing the examination a EULAR certificate will be issued.
➢ **Fee:** 150 EUR
➢ **Start:** 17.10.2022
➢ **Available for:** 1 year + 1 year extension

4th EULAR Online Course for Systemic Lupus Erythematosus
The Course consists of 12 modules covering the recent updates in diagnosing and managing SLE, as well as the recent updates to management guidelines.
➢ **Fee:** 150 EUR
➢ **Start:** 17.10.2022
➢ **Available for:** 1 year + 1 year extension

5th EULAR Online Course on Imaging in RMDs
The Course covers 3 modules. The learner level is aimed primarily at Section Residents and Fellows in Training as well as Rheumatologists. It aims to educate rheumatologists and future rheumatologists on how to interpret imaging examinations in chronic inflammatory RMDs and to use the imaging results to guide their daily treatment.
➢ **Fee:** 150 EUR
➢ **Start:** 17.10.2022
➢ **Available for:** 1 year + 1 year extension
EULAR ONLINE COURSES AND MODULES

8th EULAR Online Course for Health Professionals in Rheumatology
The course consists of a total of 8 modules. Care is given to integrate the multidisciplinary perspective of the treatment of rheumatic diseases.
- **Fee:** 150 EUR
- **Start:** 17.10.2022
- **Available for:** 1 year + 1 year extension

9th EULAR/PRES Online Course in Paediatric Rheumatology
The 11-module course represents a joint effort of EULAR and the Paediatric Rheumatology European Society (PRES), offering a deep insight of all the aspects related to rheumatic diseases in children and adolescents including their impact on the growing body and the differential diagnosis with other paediatric disorders.
- **Fee:** 150 EUR
- **Start:** 17.10.2022
- **Available for:** 1 year + 1 year extension
By 2023, EULAR will be the leading provider of education in rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs).

**EULAR School of Rheumatology**

**EULAR Online courses:**
- RMD: EULAR Course on Rheumatic Diseases
- US: EULAR Online Introductory Ultrasound Course
- IMG: EULAR Online Course on Imaging in RMDs
- PAED: EULAR / PRES Online Course in Paediatric Rheumatology
- HPR: EULAR Online Course for Health Professionals in Rheumatology
- SSc: EULAR Online Course on Systemic Sclerosis

The EULAR Educational Cooperation with National Societies (EULAR ECONS)
The EULAR Research Center

How does it work?

1. Select your support area and describe your needs in a short online form
2. Get matched with an experienced scientist
3. Obtain up to 10 hours of free consultation
4. Share your feedback upon service completion

Support Areas

- Basic/Translational Research (using patient/human materials, e.g. cells, serum...or Dedicated animal models of RMDs to address bedside-to-bench research questions)
- Clinical Research
- Epidemiology and Public Health
- Health Services Research
- Implementation Science

The EULAR Research Consultation Service is offered through the EULAR Research Centre. The service is available for researchers based in EULAR-affiliated countries.
The EULAR Outcome Measures Library (OML) aims to be a comprehensive database of validated instruments (indices, questionnaires, scales, or others), with an emphasis on patient-reported outcomes (PRO) used in rheumatology. The EULAR OML was created by rheumatologists, health professionals, students and patients, all of whom are engaged in the field of rheumatology.

The database includes a detailed description of each instrument, including the instrument itself (and validated language versions, if available), useful references, a description of the population(s)/setting(s) where it has been validated, recommendations and rules for use, guideline for interpretation of the results in clinical practice or in research, information on the most relevant psychometric properties of each instrument. Instruments are categorized by disease or by topic. Also, guidelines for interpretation of results in both practice and research settings are provided. The OML is an ongoing project and is frequently updated with the most recent information on PROs in rheumatology.

For more information visit:

http://oml.eular.org/
The European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) is very concerned about the situation in Ukraine, and it condemns Russia’s unacceptable act of aggression towards the country. As hospitals are being attacked and access to medical aid is interrupted, EULAR wants to respond to this humanitarian crisis and particularly support the Ukrainian people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs), who need urgent treatment and assistance.

Together with EMEUNET, EULAR has developed a support programme for young Ukrainian rheumatologists, enabling them to take up their profession, maintain and further develop their skills, and provide care to a range of patients, including particularly displaced Ukrainian RMD patients. Across Europe, Ukrainian rheumatologists or rheumatologists in training can apply for this programme, sponsoring their employment in one of EULAR’s various partner hospitals or institutes. EULAR will fund up to 20 such positions, allowing for a stable income for a Ukrainian physician who had to flee their country, and securing medical treatment for Ukrainian refugees with RMDs. EULAR will provide € 500,000 for this purpose.

What: Funding programme for displaced Ukrainian physicians
Who can apply: Hospitals or medical institutions (employers) in countries with many displaced Ukrainian refugees
Target group: Ukrainian rheumatologists, focus on rheumatologists in training
How much: 20.000 – 30.000 EUR/year

Please send your application to eular@eular.org.
EMEUNET PODCASTS!

Are you too busy to read the whole Newsletter? Do you want to keep updated about the main EMEUNET activities and save time?

With our Podcasts, you can get updated while on the go, with extracts of the recent newsletters, highlights of the most recent publications in the field of Rheumatology, selected for you by EMEUNET members (What Is New), interviews and review of other EMEUNET activities.

**Where to listen:**

![Podcast Platforms](platforms.png)

**SHARE YOUR IDEAS!**

Over the years EMEUNET has developed several projects covering different topics and areas of interest. However, we always appreciate any suggestions and welcome new ideas to expand on what we currently offer to EMEUNET members. Make your voice heard and share your ideas with us!

For additional suggestions and ideas, just write down some lines to summarize your proposal and send it either via email at emeunet@eular.ch or through our website (http://emeunet.eular.org/contact_us.cfm). Don’t forget to provide your contacts so we can come back to you for additional details!

More information about EMEUNET can be found at [http://emeunet.eular.org](http://emeunet.eular.org)

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